

Memorandum of Understanding to Promote Public Health and Recreation 2008

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention
Indian Health Service
Office of Public Health and Science

And

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
Food and Nutrition Service
Forest Service
Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Bureau of Indian Affairs
Bureau of Land Management
Bureau of Reclamation
Fish and Wildlife Service
National Park Service

DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
Army Corps of Engineers

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
Federal Highway Administration

To Promote Public Health and Recreation

This Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) is made and entered into by the following Departments and their respective agencies, as listed below; and hereinafter referred to as the cooperating agencies or by their name or initials.

Department of Health and Human Services (HHS):

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)

Indian Health Service (IHS)

Office of Public Health and Science (OPHS)

Department of Agriculture (USDA):

Food and Nutrition Service (FNS)

Forest Service (FS)

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion (CNPP)
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service (CSREES)

Department of the Interior (DOI):

Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA)
Bureau of Land Management (BLM)
Bureau of Reclamation (BOR)
Fish and Wildlife Service (FWS)
National Park Service (NPS)

Department of the Army (DA):

Army Corps of Engineers (USACE)

Department of Transportation (DOT):

Federal Highway Administration (FHWA)

I. PURPOSE

The purpose of this MOU is to establish a general framework for the cooperating agencies to promote uses and benefits of the Nation's public lands and water resources to enhance the physical and mental health and well being of all Americans. This collaborative effort is being undertaken to help promote healthy lifestyles through sound nutrition, physical activity, and recreation in America's great outdoors.

In support of the President's HealthierUS initiative this MOU will serve to improve the efficiency and coordination of Federal policies related to the health of the general public with the goal of building a healthier nation.

II. STATEMENT OF MUTUAL INTEREST AND MUTUAL BENEFIT

The cooperating agencies responsible for the management of the Federal resources, lands, and waters are dedicated to the effective management of the Nation's natural and cultural resources, and as such, are responsible for increasing public knowledge, awareness, use, enjoyment, and appreciation of these lands and resources and their management. The cooperating agencies also provide research, education, and technical assistance to help ensure the sustainable development and use of non-Federal lands.

Department of Health and Human Services and its agencies will: promote the four pillars of HealthierUS, with special attention given to promoting physical activity and built and environmental attributes that allow more Americans to accumulate a minimum of 30 minutes of moderate-intensity activity most days of the week (at least 60 minutes for children and adolescents, approximately 60 minutes for adults to prevent weight gain, and at least 60 to 90 minutes to sustain weight loss).

Department of Agriculture and its agencies will: encourage healthy lifestyles through outdoor recreation and conservation, research, education and outreach programs, in conjunction with healthy nutrition through consumer-oriented efforts that educate on the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and the MyPyramid Food Guidance System. The nation's forests and grasslands will be promoted as locations for the American public to engage in physical activities appropriate to the site, and through a variety of agency and partnership programs.

Department of the Interior and its agencies will: raise public awareness of the role and benefits of physical activity in maintaining good physical and mental health, and encourage healthy lifestyles through outdoor recreation and conservation education opportunities. Through the over 500 million acres of land managed by DOI agencies, and through partnership programs that create conservation and recreation opportunities on state, local, and private lands nationwide, DOI will encourage and provide for use and enjoyment of the outdoors by children and youth particularly. DOI agencies will promote appropriate opportunities on DOI lands, and work with partners to create new opportunities elsewhere, for children and youth to become familiar with and comfortable in natural, outdoor environments, and hence to counteract the rise of what has been termed "nature-deficit disorder."

Department of the Army through: the Army Corps of Engineers will raise public awareness of the role and benefits of physical activity in maintaining good physical and mental health, and encourage healthy lifestyles through outdoor recreation and conservation education opportunities. The USACE lands and waters will be promoted as locations for the American public to engage in physical activities appropriate to the site.

Department of Transportation through: the Federal Highway Administration will encourage the use of its funding programs to support projects that promote accessibility, walking, bicycling, safe routes to school and other highway safety programs, recreational trails, transportation enhancements, scenic byways, and access to recreation on Federal lands.

All Departments:

By collaborating, the Departmental agencies will optimize their ability to:

- Stimulate actions within agencies to foster successful existing programs and develop new initiatives and projects;
- Increase effectiveness through cross-discipline research, education, outreach, and information sharing;
- Establish reliable and standardized data for evaluating project outcomes;
- Enhance collaboration with land-grant university system and other research and education institutions, as appropriate;
- Improve collaboration with State, local, and private organizations;
- Build support for and raise the profile of select local projects;

- Document and share lessons learned;
- Identify opportunities to improve public health through recreation; and
- Promote accessibility and program and educational outreach to diverse populations.

III. THE COOPERATING AGENCIES AGREE TO COLLABORATE ON THE FOLLOWING PROJECTS, TO THE EXTENT ALLOWED BY EACH AGENCY'S STATUTORY AUTHORITY:

Healthy Lifestyles -- Physical Activity and Nutrition

- Raise public awareness of the role and benefits of physical activity in maintaining good physical and mental health.
- Raise public awareness of recommendations in the *Dietary Guidelines for Americans* and the USDA food guidance system.
- Provide information on the many places on America's public lands and waters where natural environments and recreation opportunities exist for public active use.
- Develop joint products and/or programs that foster public awareness and behavioral changes that increase physical activity. Where appropriate, joint products and/or programs will focus on the needs of urban and underserved populations, especially those living near public lands and waters. Additionally, facilities and programs may be developed with a focus on preventing or reducing obesity, as well as assisting persons in maintaining a physically active lifestyle.
- Provide education, technical assistance, research and evaluation related to healthy lifestyles and the use of recreation areas, programs, and products aimed at promoting physical activity, especially on the Nation's public lands and waters while promoting sustainable natural resource management and conservation for future generations.
- Review and modify various communication efforts and visitor service programs, as appropriate, to promote and accommodate the physical activity of all participants.

Volunteering, Public Service, and Partnerships

- Recruit and/or encourage the recruitment of youth and mature adult volunteers to enable them to maintain an active lifestyle.
- Promote national recognitions such as National Public Lands Day, National Fishing and Boating Week, National Trails Day, Winter Trails Day, Great Outdoors Month, and

National Physical Fitness and Sports Month, as well as local volunteer events and opportunities to encourage public service while promoting nature-based physical activity.

- Promote physical activity and outdoor recreation as part of Wonderful Outdoor World and at other camping grounds managed by the federal agencies.
- Develop new and/or strengthen existing coalitions at community, State, regional, and/or national levels in both the public and private sectors to bring together respective constituents of the cooperating agencies in planning, establishing, maintaining, promoting, and using recreational areas and facilities for physical activity.
- As appropriate, engage other agencies or programs within the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of the Interior, the Department of the Army, and the Department of Transportation in the projects, activities, policies, and efforts being mutually accomplished by the cooperating agencies of this MOU.
- Identify and employ opportunities to share information, educate, and cross-train staff and constituencies regarding the knowledge base, methods, goals, and collaborative activities of each of the cooperating agencies.

Natural and Built Environment

- Emphasize the role natural environments can play in the improvement of the health and well being of Americans.
- Promote policies that support the design, maintenance, and conservation of recreational facilities that increase the public's physical activity and ensure inclusive recreation.
- Share and use cooperating agencies' research and social science capabilities to identify who is or is not active, the characteristics and benefits of participating in recreation, and the barriers to increasing their physical activity.
- Encourage funding programs to support projects which promote accessibility and safety for walking, bicycling, recreational trails, and access to and within recreational areas.
- Support research, education, and outreach programs that help develop and transfer knowledge of sustaining the health and recreation benefits of forest and range lands.

IV. IT IS MUTUALLY AGREED AND UNDERSTOOD BY AND AMONG THE COOPERATING AGENCIES THAT:

Specific work projects or activities that involve the transfer of funds, services, or property among the parties of this MOU will require the execution of separate agreements or contracts, contingent upon the availability of funds from the cooperating agencies or as appropriated by Congress. Each subsequent agreement or arrangement involving the transfer of funds, services,

or property between the parties of this MOU must comply with all applicable statutes and regulations, including those statutes and regulations applicable to procurement activities, and must be independently authorized by appropriate statutory authority.

This MOU in no way restricts the cooperating agencies from participating in similar activities or arrangements with other public, private, or nonprofit entities.

Any information furnished to the cooperating agencies under this MOU is subject to applicable provisions of the Freedom of Information Act.

Nothing in this MOU shall obligate the cooperating agencies to expend appropriations or to enter into any contract with other obligations.

Additional Federal agencies may be added to this MOU with the oral concurrence of the cooperating agencies at the time of the proposed addition. A written record of the oral consent of the cooperators will be created and maintained by the cooperating agencies. The addition of the new cooperating agencies will be effected by attaching to the MOU the written consent of the heads of the new cooperating agencies.

An agency may terminate participation in this MOU with a 60-day written notice.

V. STRUCTURE OF THE MOU WORKING GROUP AND PRINCIPAL CONTACTS

To provide for consistent and effective communication among the cooperators, each of the cooperators shall appoint a representative to the Working Group who will prepare an annual agency work plan, agree to agreed upon tasks, and consider new activities, as appropriate, that may be pursued under this MOU. Appointed representatives will:

- Prepare an annual agency accomplishment and evaluation report for the Working Group;
- Participate in scheduled meetings and conference calls;
- Participate in the annual strategic meeting with agency leadership to identify projects; and
- Review periodically the communication strategy and strategic plan making revisions as deemed necessary.

The principal contacts for the agreement are: Jane Wargo, President's Council on Physical Fitness and Sports, 200 Independence Avenue SW, Room 738H, Washington, DC 20201; office (202) 690- 5157; or email jane.wargo@hhs.gov; and Kristen Nelson, USDA Forest Service, Recreation and Heritage Resources, 201 14th Street, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250; office (202) 205-1406; or email kristennelson@fs.fed.us. The following person(s) will be the principal contact(s) for their respective agencies for the purposes of this agreement and the MOU Working Group at the time of execution.

Federal Interagency Working Group on Nature-Based Physical Activity:

Chief, Division of Nutrition and Physical Activity
National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion,
Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, HHS

Assistant Secretary for Health
Office of Disease Prevention and Health Promotion, HHS

Director, Nutrition Services Staff
Food and Nutrition Service, USDA

Director, Recreation, Heritage and Volunteer Resources
Forest Service, USDA

Deputy Director
Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion, USDA

Deputy Administrator, Family, 4-H and Nutrition
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA

Deputy Administrator, Economic and Community Systems
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA

Deputy Administrator, Natural Resources and Environment
Cooperative State Research, Education, and Extension Service, USDA

To be announced
Bureau of Indian Affairs, DOI

Head, Recreation and Visitor Service Division
Bureau of Land Management, DOI

Partnership Coordinator, Washington Office
Bureau of Reclamation, DOI

Branch Chief of Visitor Services, National Wildlife Refuge System
Division of Visitor Services and Communication,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, DOI

Associate Director, Partnerships, Interpretation/Education, Volunteers, and Outdoor Recreation
National Park Service, DOI

Chief, Natural Resources Management
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers

Associate Administrator, Office of Planning, Environment, and Realty
Federal Highway Administration, DOT

VI. DURATION OF AGREEMENT

This agreement is effective until replaced or modified and may continue subject to the availability of funds.

VII. LEGAL AUTHORITY

This agreement is entered into under the following authorities:

HHS Agencies:

The MOU will be carried out consistent with HHS's broad statutory authorities found in 42 U.S.C. 238, 241, 280e-11, 280h-280h-3, and 300u-300u-3 and, in some cases, pursuant to more particular, pertinent Public Health Service Act provisions or other HHS program statutes.

USDA Agencies:

Food and Nutrition Service -- The National School Lunch Act of 1946, as amended; The Child Nutrition Act of 1966, as amended; The Agriculture and Consumer Protection Act of 1973, as amended; The Food Stamp Act of 1977, as amended; and the Emergency Assistance Act of 1983, as amended.

Forest Service -- Organic Administration Act of 1897 (16 U.S.C. 473-475, 477-482, 551). National Trails Systems Act October 2, 1968 (PL 90-543, 82 Stat 919). Volunteers in the National Forests Act of 1972 (PL 92-300, 88 Stat 147).

Center for Nutrition Policy and Promotion -- National Nutrition Monitoring and Related Research Act of 1990 (PL 101-445).

CSREES -- Hatch Act of 1887, as amended (7 U.S.C.361a-i); McIntire-Stennis Act of 1962, as amended (16 U.S.C. 582a et seq.); Smith Lever Act of 1914 (7 U.S.C. 341 et seq.); National Agricultural Research, Extension, and Teaching Policy Act of 1977, as amended (7 U.S.C. 3123); and Agricultural Research, Extension, and Education Reform Act of 1998, as amended (7 U.S.C. 7601).

DOI Agencies:

BLM -- Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 (FLPMA), October 21, 1976, as amended (43 U.S.C. 1701-1782).

FWS -- Fish and Wildlife Act of 1956 (16 U.S.C. 742f); Refuge Recreation Act (16 U.S.C. 460k-2); Fish and Wildlife Conservation Act of 1980 (16 U.S.C. 2901 et seq.); Fish and Wildlife Coordination Act (16 U.S.C. 661); and the National Wildlife System Administration Act (16 U.S.C. 668 dd-ee).

NPS -- National Trails System Act, of October 2, 1968 (PL 90-543), as amended; Outdoor Recreation Coordination Act, May 28, 1963 (PL 88-29).

DOD Agencies:

Army Corps of Engineers - General Authorities 16 U.S.C., 460d and Section 208 of the Water Resources Development Act of 1996.

DOT Agencies:

49 U.S.C. 301

VIII. TRAVEL STATEMENT

Travel under this agreement is subject to allowances authorized in accordance with the Federal Travel Regulations, the Joint Federal Travel Regulations, and/or the Foreign Service Regulations.

IX. EQUIPMENT

If equipment is procured in order to provide services, the agency conducting the procurement will retain title to the equipment.

X. SIGNATORIES